



**RED CANOE**  
— FOUNDATION —

**FY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT**





# RED CANOE

— FOUNDATION —

***Red Canoe Foundation is  
dedicated to providing youth  
access to transformative  
wilderness experiences.***

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## **Red Canoe Foundation**

P.O. Box 36  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
(608) 469-4752  
[www.redcanoefoundation.org](http://www.redcanoefoundation.org)  
[phoebe.knowles@wabun.org](mailto:phoebe.knowles@wabun.org)

Red Canoe Foundation is a  
U.S. 501(c)(3) organization.

### **Staff**

Phoebe Knowles, Executive Director

### **Emeritus Circle**

Libby Moore – *in memoriam*  
(Founding Director & Chair)  
Gail Coleman  
(Executive Director 2018 to 2023)

## **Board of Directors**

Maddy Vertenten, Interim Chair  
Hardin Coleman, Vice Chair  
William Porter, Secretary  
Susannah Ross, Treasurer  
Christopher Foster, Director at Large  
Jason Lewis  
John Moses  
Louise Moses  
Ben Simmons  
Kathryn Stauffer  
Stephanie Sullivan\*

*\*Appointed in FY 2023*

## **Directors of Camp Wabun Canadian Charitable Corporation**

Howard Barnebey  
Tammy Cole  
William Green

### **Advisory Board**

Molly Brennan  
Bill Brennan  
Aaron Coleman  
Conor Finnegan  
Katherine Finnegan  
Josephine Moore  
Lucas Rooney  
Lily Turner



October 2023

Dear RCF Friends and Supporters,

Transformations was a perfect theme for Red Canoe Foundation's FY 2023 as we continued to grow as an organization and expand our impact! There have been many "firsts" as well as at least one "last."

The list of firsts includes:

- The Foundation's first Giving Day on May 15 when 66 generous donors contributed \$26,835 to support the scholarship fund;
- The establishment of one more fully-funded Endowment Fund, the Bill Olmsted and Dave Thompson Scholarship Fund, which will be used to support campers who are Temagami First Nation/Teme-Augama Anishnabai members, First Nation, and other children of color;
- Another record-breaking Annual Appeal of \$137,199 from 195 households, surpassing our goal for the fifth year in a row;
- A record \$81,645 in scholarship assistance for 20 campers at Camp Wabun;
- The receipt of a \$14,684.35 award from the Boston University Center for Character and Social Responsibility's Wilderness Way Project in honor of the Camp Wabun Limited's commitment to First Nation Youth and which supported three Temagami First Nation campers from Bear Island this summer;
- And the hiring of Phoebe Knowles as the first full-time Executive Director of the Wabun Foundation and Jessica Lewis as the first full-time Managing Director of Camp Wabun.



The list of lasts includes:

- My tenure as part-time Executive Director! It has been an honor to serve the Foundation and the Wabun community since 2018. There was never enough time to accomplish everything I wanted to, but I am so grateful for the words of appreciation that many of you have shared with me. While I am stepping away from a formal association with the Foundation, I look forward to seeing many of you on Garden Island in August 2024!

With gratitude,

Gail Coleman  
Executive Director



October 2023

Greetings RCF Friends and Family,

This year marks the end of an important chapter in our History Book.

Since our founding in 2015, this Foundation (originally called Friends of Wabun, then Red Canoe Foundation, and now Wabun Foundation) has been working – with your support – to help young people get access to transformative wilderness experiences through a robust scholarship and grant program.

Historically, scholarship funds have been the only way for friends and family of the Wabun community to be able to provide any financial support to the Camp. It has been a wonderful and mutually beneficial approach, positively impacting the lives of award recipients, their families and communities while providing important funds to the Camp.

As with most summer camps, tuition at Wabun does not cover the full cost of operations. With that in mind, I am thrilled to forecast to you all that this coming year, Camp Wabun and the Wabun Foundation will be merging to facilitate the Camp's transition to non-profit status. That means that we will finally be able to support Wabun beyond just scholarships (though scholarship support remains a central commitment for us!) and help the Camp thrive into the future.

This year brought a few other exciting updates. Our board welcomed a new Director, Stephanie Sullivan, this past spring, and we continued to engage the greater Wabun community by growing our Board Advisory Group. I am so grateful to the volunteer Board of Directors and Advisors of this Foundation who have been tirelessly working – with the Camp Wabun

leadership – towards this important turning point for both organizations... it has been a true labor of love.

The writing of this letter represents my last official act as Board Chair of the Red Canoe Foundation. I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to transition from the volunteer side of the Board to the employee side as I take on the role of Executive Director of the Foundation with Maddy Vertenten stepping in as the interim Chair of the Board.



As we turn the page to begin this next exciting chapter, I want to state clearly that our community can now provide financial support to Camp Wabun with direct donations. There will be no more dotted line – parents, alumni and friends will now be able to support Wabun wherever they need it most. This has been a long time coming! I hope you will join me in giving back to the Camp that has given us all so much!

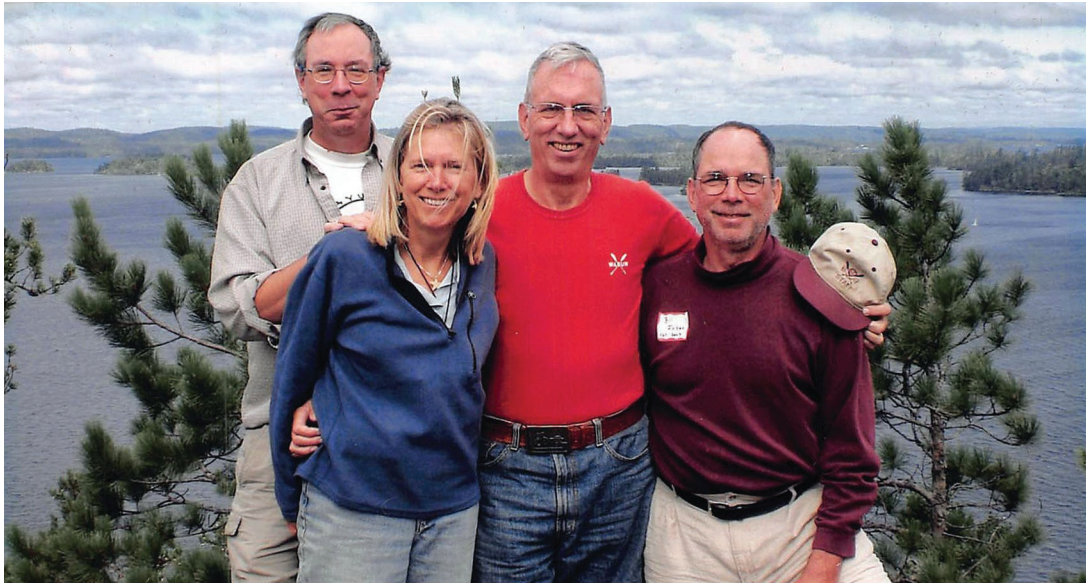
In gratitude and optimism,

*Phoebe Knowles*

Phoebe Knowles  
Outgoing Board Chair, Red Canoe Foundation  
Incoming Executive Director, Wabun Foundation



## The Forbes Siblings



(L-R) Casey, Leslie, Stephen, and William Forbes

Each year as Red Canoe Foundation grows, the generosity, creativity and resourcefulness of our wonderful community grows with it. The impact of time spent at Camp Wabun drives much of our giving community. We share below an example that highlights how the multigenerational impact of time spent in the wilderness continues to drive us forward and expand.

In December 2021, Gail Coleman received a letter and four generous checks. An excerpt from the letter read:

*The Forbes Siblings are starting a new tradition for Christmas. This year we will direct our Christmas gift funds to an organization that has been meaningful to our family in honor of our parents, James and Carol Forbes.*

*Given our long history with Camp Wabun, the Red Canoe Foundation immediately came to mind. A quick count of Forbes/Worth family summers with Camp Wabun indicates 17 different family members enjoying multiple seasons, totaling over 83 “camper summers” during a 63 year period from 1957-2019... While our family is not unique in our long association with Wabun, we are proud to credit Wabun with keeping our family connected over 4 generations, and with providing the opportunity to learn much about the natural world and ourselves in it.*

In December 2022, Gail was thrilled to receive another letter from the four siblings which, in part, read:

*Once again, the Forbes Siblings have decided to direct their Christmas Gift Fun to the Red Canoe Foundation. While there are no family members at camp this summer, the transformation from past summers spent on Temagami remains in our family life. This gift comes with our thankfulness for the role that Wabun plays in keeping our family connected across 4 generations, and in honor of our parents, Carol and James Forbes, for whom strong family ties and “making a difference” for others were paramount.*

– Stephen Forbes, William Forbes, Leslie Forbes and James “Casey” Forbes



## Dr. Jeff's Lasting Impact

Dr. Jeffrey Hartzell (Sept. 11, 1929 - October 13, 2022)



Dr. Jeff lived 93 very full years, beloved by so many who had the opportunity to know him. He is remembered as a life partner to Ann for 56 years, father to Jeff Jr., Andy and Jane, "Pop Pop" to 6 grandchildren, brother to Frank and Mary Lee, and "Dr. Jeff" to countless others including his Wabun family!

He had a diverse working life, including 3 years in the CIA and a few years working with his father in manufacturing before becoming a physician at the age of 37. He had been inspired by his son's kindhearted doctor to change his career, and ended up working at the Pennsylvania Hospital for 30 years. During that time, he co-founded and served as the first medical director of the Hospital's groundbreaking hospice-care program. Later in his career, he served as the longtime alternate physician for and traveled overseas with the Philadelphia Orchestra. He also served as the team doctor for the Philadelphia Flyers.

Indeed, Dr. Jeff had a remarkable career and yet, many of us didn't know that! In his obituary, his daughter Jane remembered that he "had no need to tout his accomplishments nor broadcast his pride in and love for his family. He was secure in who he was. He lived the terrific example of not needing to prove anything." He treated people with respect and was a proponent of "finding your bliss." His patients remember him as "a very humble man but a really great physician in the full sense of that word."

His way of being in the world overflowed to his Wabun family as well. We knew him as a lifelong wilderness canoe-trip enthusiast who, along with his brother Frank and a boyhood friend, bought a small fishing lodge and spent countless days with family and friends over six decades at Camp Wabun and on Lake Temagami. We remember his warm smile that welcomed many generations of canoeists back to Garden Island on August 7. He would lean against the canoe rack, catching up with friends, eagerly awaiting the return of his children's and then his grandchildren's sections.

Dr. Jeff knew the importance and restorative properties of traveling at four miles per hour through the wilderness and supported Red Canoe Foundation's mission to make that opportunity available to others. We are deeply grateful to his family for continuing his legacy by selecting RCF as a destination for memorial gifts to support the scholarship fund. By June 30, 34 generous donors had contributed \$12,943.

"If there was ever a home away from home, it is Temagami for us," said his son, Andy. Thank you, Dr. Jeff, for helping make it home for so many others.





Between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023 (our fiscal year), the theme for the Annual Giving Campaign was Transformations. Our fundraising goal for FY2022 was \$130,000, which we were able to surpass with the generous support of our donors.

**Fiscal Year 2023**

**Revenue**

Annual Appeal Gifts	\$137,199
Endowment Gifts	\$10,193
Catalyst Fund	\$210,000
Other (Interest, Rebates, Etc.)	\$1,713
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$359,105</b>

**Expenses**

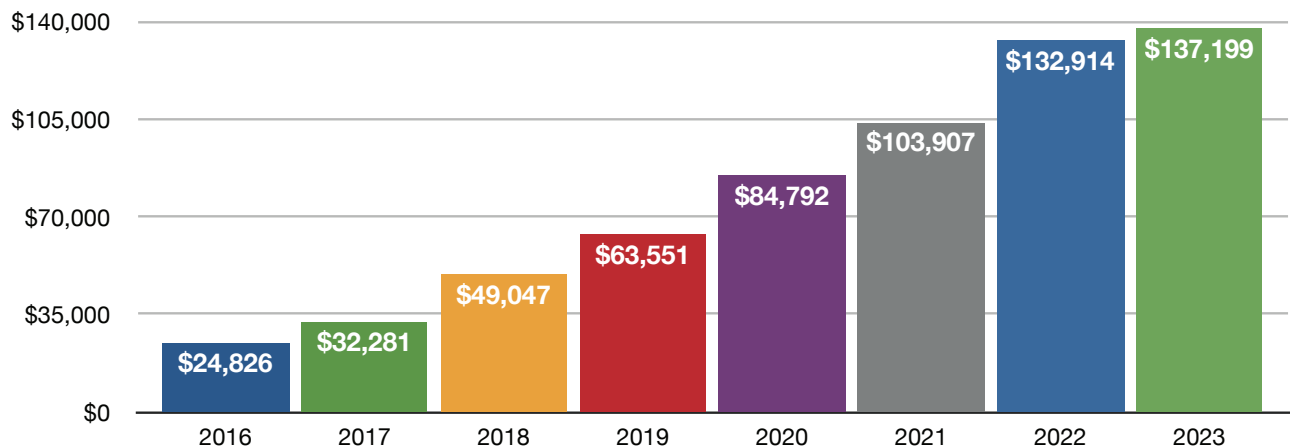
Administration	\$68,280
Fundraising	\$102,861
Scholarships	\$97,329
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$268,470</b>

**Assets at End of Fiscal Year 2023**

Cash and Short-Term Investments	\$90,341
Endowment Funds*	\$200,260
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$290,601</b>

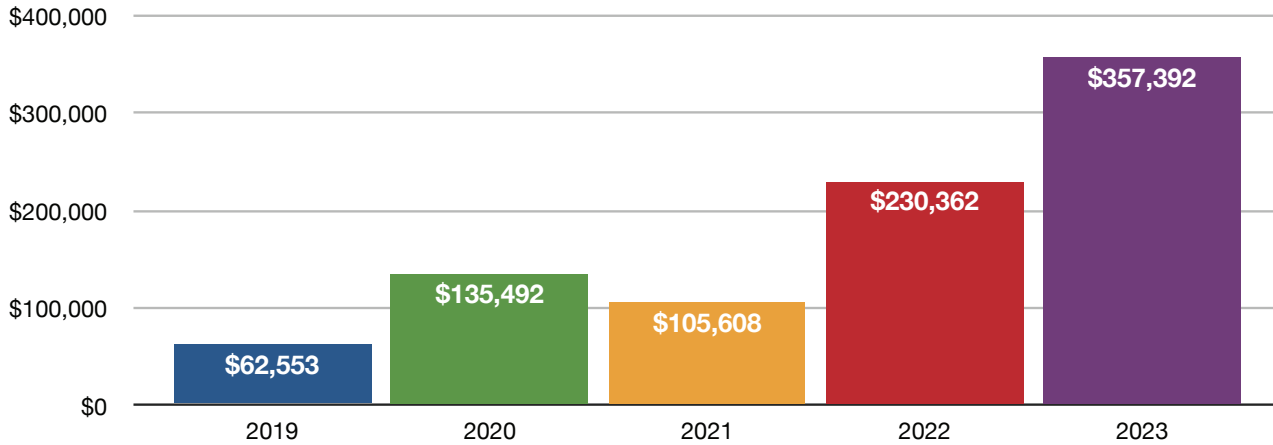
\*There are currently five endowment funds: General Endowment Fund, Gail and Hardin Coleman Family Scholarship Fund, Bill Olmsted and Dave Thompson Endowed Scholarship Fund, Mary Alice McLellan Foster Endowment Fund, and the Catalyst Fund.

**Annual Appeal Giving (FY 2016-2023)**

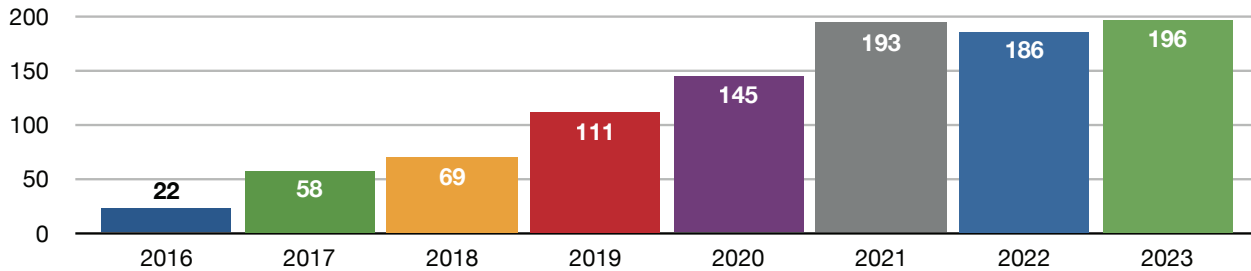




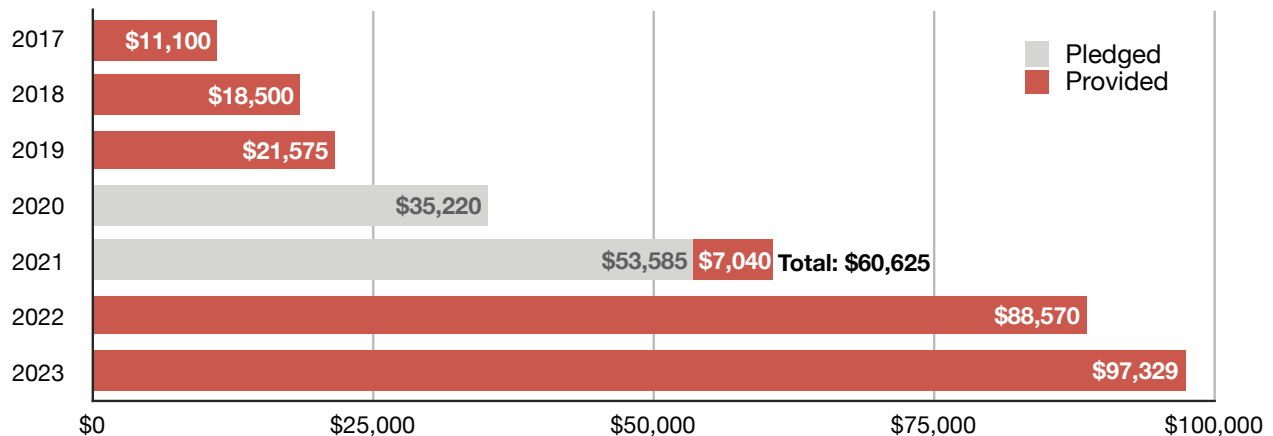
**Total Giving (FY 2019-2023)**



**All Donors By Household (FY 2016-2023)**



**Scholarship Support Pledged and Provided (2017-2023)**







*We are sincerely grateful to members of the Red Canoe Foundation family for your generous commitment to our mission. You make it financially feasible for youth to gain access to the wilderness. The following list reflects all gifts received between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. All of RCF's Board of Directors and Staff donated at the Wilderness Club level or higher in FY2023.*

**Wabun Sustaining Society  
(\$100,000 and up)**

Hardin and Gail Coleman  
Alan and Charlotte Hyde

**Voyagers Circle  
(\$5,000-\$24,999)**

John Austin, III  
Phoebe Knowles  
Margaret Lynch  
Lucas Rooney  
Susannah Ross and Kevin Barney  
William and Rebecca Wellington

**Trippers Circle  
(\$2,500-\$4,999)**

Anonymous  
Bob Frazee  
Bill Green and Diane Whitney  
Jane and Philip Mallinson  
Bill and Anne Porter  
Daniel and Karen Sanders

**Wilderness Club  
(\$1,000-\$2,499)**

Anonymous  
Douglas Addison  
William Anderson  
Jon Berger  
Luke and Elizabeth Dann  
Leslie and John Elder  
John Fiske  
Christopher and Hilary Foster  
Maddie and Teo Fremont-Smith  
Holt Fuller



Mary Beth Gallagher  
Andy and Theresa Hartzell  
Suzie and Crawford Hill  
Barbara and David Hillmeyer  
Molly Hoffman/Mazzone  
Michael and Monica Lehner  
Jason Lewis  
Lisa de Lima, Bobby Alter, and Family  
Rick and Cate Meffert  
Rose Wilcher Monahan  
John and Louise Moses  
David Newell  
Alison Gessner Rooney  
Jessica Scriver  
Ben Simmons  
Wick Simmons  
Katie and Scott Stauffer  
Stephanie Sullivan and Nick Laping  
John and Angela Traynor  
Gordie and Tracy Vap  
Maddy and Joe Vertenten  
Mark and Polly Olmsted Vranderic

**Campers Club  
(\$500-\$999)**

Andy Albershardt  
Jay Boren  
Todd Cavalier  
Janis and Andy Darrow  
Deborah and Gary Dorshimer  
Michael Douvadjian  
Sarah Flotten  
Suzanne Flotten  
Casey Forbes  
Bill Gallery  
Andrew J. Hanson  
Walter and Ann Hinchman  
Pamela Hyde  
Halley Keevil and Angie Wild  
Levin Family  
Jon Lichtman  
Polly and Chuck Longworth  
McCarthy Family  
Michael and Martha Parker  
Russell Shappy  
Bruce Simonds  
Soheila Sobhani



Dennis and BJ Sterndale  
 Tom Stiverson  
 John Strand and Sara Proman  
 Strand  
 Adam Wallace  
 Steve and Mimi Wrede

**Friends of RCF  
 (Up to \$499)**

Anonymous (3)  
 Rachel and Jonathan Albert  
 Alderman Family  
 Riley Allen  
 Kelly Bancroft  
 Carrie Baquie  
 Roberta Barclay  
 Bill and Nancy Battey  
 Irene Bettinger  
 Stephen Blackmer  
 Martha Blasberg  
 Brennan Family  
 Neil and Karen Bresolin  
 Nicholas Brokaw  
 Andrew Buckman  
 Lila Cleminshaw and Keith  
 Erickson  
 Allegra and William Coleman  
 Jesse Coleman  
 David Condliffe  
 John and Helen Davies  
 Margaret DeGulis  
 Thomas and Barbara Donnelley  
 Gail Eastman  
 Marshall and Virginia Eaton  
 John Edmonds  
 Ennis Family  
 Steve Farrell

Melissa Finlay  
 Mary and Steve Finnegan  
 Max Flomen  
 Leslie Forbes  
 Stephen Forbes  
 William Forbes  
 Al Freedman  
 Joseph and Jennifer Giffune  
 Emma Gwyn  
 Sam Haines  
 Andrew Harrington  
 Courtney Harrison  
 David and Christine Hartzell  
 Frank Hartzell  
 Jane Hartzell and Barb De Angelis  
 Tawnia Healy  
 Wiliam and Caren Hibbitts  
 Thomas Higginson  
 Tim Hildreth  
 Julia Hinchman  
 Hinchman Family  
 Camden Reid Holland  
 Meghan Hope  
 Susanne Horner  
 Raymond Hovey  
 Joan and Joseph Kadlec  
 Rosemary Kearney

Rosemary Keevil  
 Brian Kilgore  
 John and Kay Lahr  
 Sarah Langfitt  
 Maddie Lehner  
 Julie and Jerry Levitt  
 Jessica Katherine Lewis  
 Claudia Lindsey and Michael Fotos  
 Rob and Jenifer Lippincott  
 Erin Little  
 Laura Longsworth and Lucia Metz  
 Lizzy Longsworth and Tom Kreyche  
 Barbara and Will Lorry  
 Nancy Mabry and Myron Stachiw  
 Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP  
 Joseph Manko  
 Peter and Christina Manning  
 John Maus  
 Debbie Monroe  
 John Monroe  
 Helen and Richard Moore  
 Ice Lekometros Moore  
 Nina Moore  
 Richard and Barbara Moore  
 Travis and Mia Moore  
 Bob Morse  
 Katie Moses





Margot Moses  
 Mike and Rhonda Murnane  
 Dolores and Dominick Nave  
 James Newell  
 Nocka Family  
 Nussbaum Family  
 Ellen and Richard Packerl  
 Reid Parker  
 John Paulson  
 Roberta and Tom Paulson  
 Jonathan Pereira  
 Hilary Pidden  
 Elise Pope  
 Jim and Diane Rees  
 Trevor Rees  
 Jay Reighley  
 Donald Rutley  
 Woody Rutter  
 David Schuler  
 Drew Schuler  
 Matt Semler  
 Sara Senior  
 Seville Simonds  
 Rob Slattery  
 Carol Sly and Stephen Marshall  
 Drew and Jane Spalding  
 Stacy, Joshua, and Graham Sterndale  
 Katy Stetson  
 Sally Strand  
 Karen Strauss  
 JD Sullivan  
 Sidney Sundheimer  
 Robert Swift  
 Margaret and William Thickstun

Neil Thompson  
 Charles Tritschler  
 Alex Tucker  
 Ella Vertenten  
 Ron and Carla Vlaskamp  
 Cristine Watrous

**Matching Gifts**

*The following company matched gifts in the past year:*

Global Health Labs LLC

**Tributes**

*Donations were made in memory or in honor of the following:*

Aaron, Andrew, Jesse, and Max

William Anderson

Harriet Berger

Gail Coleman and the Hardin Coleman Family

John Edmonds and Ted Nye

Sarah Flotten and Jess Lewis

James and Carol Forbes

Dr. Jeff "Pop-Pop" Hartzell, Uncle Jeff, Doc. You have meant so much to so many. May your legacy of kindness and gratitude live on in those touched by your wonderful family.

Sara Hibbitts

Hillmeyer Family

Julie Hinchman

Nibby and Ann Hinchman

Shawn Hodgins

Jalen Hurts

Phoebe Knowles, Her Amazing Mom (Suzanne), and the Knowles Family

Tom and Elizabeth Kreyche  
 Thomas Laudick  
 Margaret and Dick Lewis  
 Richard Lewis, Sr. and Jr.  
 Joe McCarthy  
 Libby Hyde Moore

Louise and John Moses and the Moses Family

Bill Olmsted

Bill and Anne Porter

Matthew Ridgeway

Ben Simmons

Charlie and Angel Sipp

Coach Carlton Smith

Clay Spalding

Alexandra and Elliot Strand, Happy Birthday...You have grown up to carry heavy loads! Congrats!

Dave Thompson

Josh Tuttle

Jack and Libby Walker's Graduation

Hail to All the Wabun Campers, Hail to All the Staff, too – Past and Present.

1976 Chippy Section

2022 Mattawas!

Those lost to senseless violence.

**Facebook Birthday Sponsors**

*\$400 was raised with a birthday fundraiser by:*

Karen Carter

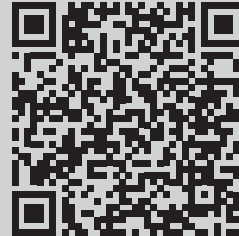


*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists. Please direct any questions or concerns to Phoebe Knowles, Executive Director, at [phoebe.knowles@wabun.org](mailto:phoebe.knowles@wabun.org).*



## How can you support RCF?

- Quickly and easily make an online donation by using the QR code below or by visiting <https://www.wabun.com/wabun-foundation/> and clicking the DONATE button.
- Find out if your employer has a matching gift program, and put it to good use!
- Contact Phoebe Knowles, Executive Director, at [phoebe.knowles@wabun.org](mailto:phoebe.knowles@wabun.org) to contribute to our Endowment Funds or to include us in your estate planning. (More information about these opportunities is below.)
- Are you on Facebook or Instagram? Follow, like, share, and comment on our posts! We can be found at @wabunfoundation.
- Finally, share your ideas and suggestions directly with Phoebe. We love to hear from you!



*This QR code will take you directly to our donation page.*

### Endowment Funds

An important element of Red Canoe Foundation’s growth is the establishment of several endowment funds. Donations to an endowment fund will support Wabun well into the future and can be made online or by check. Gifts of \$25,000 or more can establish an endowed, named fund that will generate annual-interest income for scholarships or other specific camp needs. For more information about establishing an endowed fund, please contact Phoebe Knowles at [phoebe.knowles@wabun.org](mailto:phoebe.knowles@wabun.org).

#### General Endowment Fund

This fund was established with an extraordinarily generous gift from Elizabeth “Libby” Moore, founding Director and Chair of Red Canoe Foundation. These funds will be used to support the general operations of the Foundation and Camp.

#### Bill Olmsted and Dave Thompson Scholarship Fund

William “Bill” Olmsted and David “Dave” Thompson started as trip staff for Camp Wabun in 1966 and 1968 respectively. They were life-long educators, dedicated to improving the world for others; thanks to the generosity of Philip Rockwood who provided the seed money for this fund, the primary focus of this scholarship fund is to facilitate access to a wilderness experience for Temagami First Nation/Teme-Augama Anishnabai members, First Nation, and other children of color.

### Gail and Hardin Coleman Family Scholarship Fund

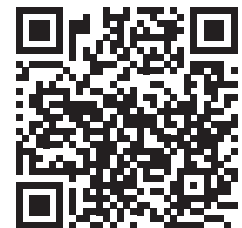
This scholarship fund will support campers who qualify for full scholarships with a preference for candidates who live in Philadelphia, Boston or other Gateway Cities in Massachusetts.

#### Mary Alice McLellan Foster Fund

Mary Alice’s father was a Camp Wabun founder and she met her husband when he was a camper. Their six children and ten of their grandchildren have attended Wabun and seven have served as staff for the camp. The focus of this fund is to sustain access to this wilderness opportunity for future generations.

#### The Catalyst Fund

The Catalyst Fund is an investment account where we hold certain unrestricted donations given outside of the Annual Fund Campaign structure.





### Planned And Legacy Gifts

At some point in our lives, we think about our legacy. We remember the people we love and the places and experiences that helped to shape us. If Wabun was one of those defining experiences in your life, consider joining the Garden Island Society by including the Wabun Foundation in your estate plans. A gift made through your estate plan may enable you to be more generous than you could otherwise, and such gifts may provide tax advantages that will enable you to leave more to your heirs.

The easiest approach is to include the Wabun Foundation in your will by specifying an amount or a percentage of your estate. The following simple language may be used in your will or codicil: *I, <NAME> of <City, State, ZIP>, give, devise and bequeath to the Wabun Foundation (Tax ID 47-4480383*

*registered in Ohio) \$XXXXX or XX% of my estate or a specific property.*

If you're 70½ or older, you may also make current gifts up to \$100,000 from your IRA and potentially avoid taxation on required minimum distributions.

You may also make the Wabun Foundation a (partial) beneficiary of these plans as they are typically heavily taxed when passed to non-spouses.

Lastly, you may also donate a life insurance policy that is no longer needed.

For additional information about bequests or other planned gifts, please contact Phoebe Knowles, Executive Director of the Wabun Foundation, PO Box 36, New Canaan, CT, 06840-0036



*Second annual foundation event hosted by Bill and Anne Porter on Lake Temagami in August 2023*



**RED CANOE**

— FOUNDATION —